

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Claims:

The amendments presented in reply to the Office action dated May 17, 2006 have not yet been entered. Please amend the claims as shown in the following listing of claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended) A method for filtering and/or stabilizing an aqueous liquid comprising the step of passing a suspension consisting of a discontinuous phase and a continuous phase through a porous filter medium at a constant flow rate wherein polymer powders comprising

- (a) from 20 to 95% by weight of at least one thermoplastic polymer from the group consisting of polyolefins and polyamides,
- (b) from 80 to 5% by weight of at least one further substance selected from the group consisting of silicates, carbonates, oxides, silica gel, kieselguhr, diatomaceous earth and crosslinked polyvinylactams, ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof

perform as filter aids and/or stabilizers for filtering and/or stabilizing an aqueous liquid, ~~the polymer powders being obtained by compounding the thermoplastic polymers (a) and the further substances (b) in an extruder wherein (a) and (b) have undergone reaction with one another.~~

- 12. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein, in addition to the filtration, stabilization of the aqueous liquid takes place simultaneously.
- 13. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the substance set forth under (b) is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal carbonates or alkaline earth metal carbonates, alkali metal hydrogencarbonates or alkaline earth metal hydrogencarbonates, the oxides or mixed oxides of subgroup 4 or main group 3, crosslinked polyvinylactams ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof.
- 14. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the substance set forth under (b) is crosslinked polyvinylpolypyrrolidone (PVPP).

15. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the substance set forth under (b) is selected from the group consisting of crosslinked polyvinylpyrrolidone, TiO_2 , NaHCO_3 , KHCO_3 , CaCO_3 , silica gel, kieselguhr, diatomaceous earth, bentonite ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof.
16. (currently amended) A process for filtering and/or stabilizing an aqueous liquid, which comprises using a filter aid or stabilizer a polymer powder comprising
- a) from 20 to 95% by weight of at least one thermoplastic polymer from the group consisting of polyolefins and polyamides,
 - b) 80 to 5% by weight of at least one further substance selected from the group consisting of silicates, carbonates, oxides, silica gel, kieselguhr, diatomaceous earth, crosslinked polyvinylactams ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof,
- the polymer powders being obtained by compounding the thermoplastic polymers (a) and the further substances (b) in an extruder wherein (a) and (b) have undergone reaction with one another.
17. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, in addition to the filtration, simultaneous stabilization of the medium to be filtered takes place.
18. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, during the filtration, the precoat filtration technique is used.
19. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the aqueous liquid is a liquid selected from the group consisting of fruit juice drinks ~~or~~ and fermented beverages.
20. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the aqueous liquid is beer.
21. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein ~~the~~ the polymer powders used have a mean particle size of from 1 to 1000 μm .
22. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the particles of the polymer powders used are not spheroidal.
23. (currently amended) A polymer employed in the process of claim 16 comprising
- a) from 20 to 95% by weight of at least one thermoplastic polymer from the group consisting of polyolefins and polyamides, and
 - b) 80 to 5% by weight of at least one further substance selected from the group consisting of silicates, carbonates, oxides, silica gel, kieselguhr, diatomaceous earth, crosslinked polyvinylactams ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof,

which is in the form of a powder and adapted for filtering and/or stabilizing aqueous fluids.

24. (new) A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the substance set forth under (b) is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal carbonates or alkaline earth metal carbonates, alkali metal hydrogencarbonates or alkaline metal hydrogencarbonates, the oxides or mixed oxides of subgroup 4 of main group 3, crosslinked polyvinylactams and mixtures thereof.
25. (new) A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the substance set forth under (b) is crosslinked polyvinylpyrrolidone.
26. (new) A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the substance set forth under (b) is selected from the group consisting of crosslinked polyvinylpyrrolidone, TiO_2 , NaHCO_3 , CaCO_3 , silica gel, kieselguhr, diatomaceous earth, bentonite and mixtures thereof.
27. (new) A compounded polymer composition comprising
 - (a) from 20 to 95% by weight of at least one thermoplastic polymer from the group consisting of polyolefins and polyamides, and
 - (b) 80 to 5% by weight of at least one further substance selected from the group consisting of silicates, carbonates, oxides, silica gel, kieselguhr, diatomaceous earth, crosslinked polyvinylactams and mixtures thereofobtained by compounding (a) and (b).